

Message Text

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11

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-07 NSC-10

SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 H-03 EUR-25 NEA-10 DRC-01 /112 W

----- 104999

O 040745Z MAR 74 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 2243

INFO SECDEF WASH IMMEDIATE NIACT

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE NIACT

ASD/PA WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON IMMEDIATE NIACT

CDR JCRC NKP APRT TH IMMEDIATE NIACT

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE NIACT

CINCPAC PA LNO BANGKOK IMMEDIATE NIACT

USDAO SAIGON IMMEDIATE NIACT

USSAG NKP TH IMMEDIATE NIACT

WHITE HOUSE SIT ROOM WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT

CJCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT

13AF CLARK AB PI IMMEDIATE NIACT

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK IMMEDIATE NIACT

NMCC PA WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT

UNCLAS SAIGON 2778

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: MOPS VN

SUBJECT: REPATRIATION OF US DIC REMAINS FROM NORTH VIETNAM

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DRV DELEGATION TO THE FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (FPJMT) ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 4 DRV DECISION TO PROCEED WITH THE REPATRIATION ON MARCH 6 OF THE REMAINS OF TWELVE (12) U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN HANOI. DRV ANNOUNCEMENT WAS PHONED TO UPI, REUTERS, AND AP BEGINNING 9:00 A.M. SAIGON TIME. COMPLETE DRV STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE ON FEBRUARY 28, 1974, THE DRV AT THE FPVJMT SENT A
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MEMORANDUM TO THE US DELEGATION INFORMING THEM OF THE DRV'S

DECISION CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8-B OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. IN THE SPIRIT OF RESPECT AND STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, IN ORDER TO SHOW ITS GOOD WILL AND HUMANITARIAN POLICY AND TO PROMOTE CORRECT IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8-B BY THE OTHER SIDE, THE DRVN HAD DECIDED TO LET THE US SIDE'S REPRESENTATIVES GO TO TH GIA LAM AREA ON MARCH 2, 3 OR 4, 1974, TO RECEIVE AND REPATRIATE THE REMAINS OF TWELVE (12) US MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO DIED AFTER BEING CAPTURED IN THE DRVN.

3. THE US HAS PROPOSED TO RECEIVE THESE REMAINS ON MARCH 8, 1974. FINALLY, THE DRV GOVERNMENT HAS FIXED THE DATE OF THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS ON MARCH 6, 1974. THE DRV GOVERNMENT'S MILITARY DELEGATION HAS ALSO INVITED THE FPJMT TO WITNESS THE RETURN AND REPATRIATION OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED REMAINS.

4. THE DRV HAS ALWAYS RESPECTED AND SCRUPULOUSLY IMPLEMENTED ALL PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT IN WHICH THERE IS ARTICLE 8, CONCERNING THE CAPTURED, DEAD AND MISSING PERSONS DURING THE WAR. THE DRV GOVERNMENT DEMANDS THAT THE US AND THE RVN SIDES DO THE SAME. UNQUOTE

5. EMBASSY PRESS SPOKESMAN RESPONDED TO QUERIES AS FOLLOWS: REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FPJMT IN SAIGON AND THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) IN NAKHON PHANOMV, THAILAND, PLAN TO LEAVE FOR HANOI ON MARCH 6, 1974, TO REPATRIATE THE REMAINS OF TWELVE U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY IN NORTH VIE T-NAM" ATTRIBUTING RESPONSE TO COLONEL WILLIAM TOMBAUGH, CHIEF OF USDEL FPJMT, WHEN ASKED, SPOKESMAN SAID ACTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON REPATRIATION OF THESE DIC REMAINS HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR PAST THREE WEEKS BETWEEN THE US AND DRV DELEGATIONS OF THE FPJMT, AND THAT THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS AND CONSTANT PLANNING FOR REPATRIATION OF THE REMAINS SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT. SPOKESMAN ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO TWO PREVIOUS LIAISON FLIGHTS TO HANOI (MAY 11 AND 18, 1973) WHEN JCRC REPRESENTATIVES WERE SHOWN WHAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SAID WERE THE GRAVES OF 23 AMERICANS WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY. HE ALSO TOLD CORRESPONDENTS ON BACKGROUND THAT THE REMAINS TO BE REPATRIATED ON MARCH 6 WOULD BE FLOWN DIRECTLY TO THE UTAPAO AIR BASE, THAILAND. DETAILS OF FPJMT MEETING WHICH TOOK UNCLASSIFIED

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PLACE AFTER DRV STATEMENT WAS ISSUED WILL FOLLOW.
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NNN

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